

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

PERSONAL AND GOVERNMENT TOPICS.

JUDGE BLATCHFORD'S ACCEPTANCE—AN IMPORTANT REPUBLICAN CAUCUS—THE SPEAKER ALMOST DEFIED—SOLDIERS' HOME MANAGEMENT.
The President has been informed of Judge Blatchford's acceptance of the Associate Justiceship of the Supreme Court. An important caucus of Republican members of Congress was held last evening. There was much confusion in the House yesterday. Mr. Money, of Mississippi, disputing and almost defying the rulings of the Speaker. Irregularities in the management of the Soldiers' Home, near Washington, have, it is said, been discovered.

JUDGE BLATCHFORD ACCEPTS.
WASHINGTON, March 15.—The President has been informed by Judge Blatchford, of New York, of his acceptance of the office of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

DISCUSSING PARTY MEASURES.
WASHINGTON, March 15.—Although the most important political event of the session was the Republican caucus of members of the House of Representatives to-night, it was time that the caucus was held, as Mr. Robeson explained this evening when he took the chair to preside. A divided party cannot expect to accomplish any results. Public measures of importance were pressing upon the attention of the country and of the party. He asked could no longer be evaded. He asked the pleasure of the caucus. Mr. White, of Kentucky, opened the discussion by extolling the bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Logan to provide that the proceeds arising from the tax on whiskey and tobacco should be used for the education of the people. Mr. White thought that this was an excellent measure and should receive a caucus approval. Mr. Cannon suggested that this measure was not before the House, and it was hardly better to talk about it in the caucus to-night. Mr. Hiseock suggested that the Caucus Committee probably had some purpose in calling the Republicans together and that it would be well for some member of that committee to indicate what the purpose was. Mr. Balfour, of Colorado, took the floor and advocated the report of the Committee on Rules, advising changes in the rules. Mr. Shallenberger, of Pennsylvania, then offered a resolution that it is the sense of this caucus that there should be no reduction of the tax on whiskey and tobacco during this session, and he advocated this resolution in a short speech. Mr. Horr, of Michigan, impressed upon the caucus the necessity of taking some measures to advance the public business. Mr. Harris, of Massachusetts, contended that it was better for the Republicans not to try to amend the rules for the present, and thought that the discussion of the proposed reduction of the tax on whiskey and tobacco was premature.

Mr. Dannelth then made a speech in favor of Shallenberger's resolution declaring that it is a matter of very great importance that the caucus should determine whether or not it would sustain the Ways and Means Committee in its proposition to take off taxes which yield a revenue of \$67,000,000, and he thought that the members of that committee should have the judgment of the caucus as to whether it should be pressed as a party measure. This speech brought Judge Kelley to his feet. He said that "our receipts from internal revenues were \$360,000,000, and that our surplus revenue amounted to \$100,000,000, and for the next year would be \$120,000,000. There must be either a reduction of the tax or some means devised to spend the money, the debt being provided for as it is. If the Republican party said it should so on and make large appropriations to create a new Navy, for internal improvements, or for other purposes, the cry of extravagance and jobbery would be raised and we shall suffer at the next election." He favored taking the tax off tobacco and whiskey.

Mr. Hiseock again suggested that it would be well for the caucus to determine whether the Republicans should proceed at once with the proposed amendment to the rules, and offered a resolution to test the sense of the caucus in regard to it. This resolution was regarded as pending and was not pressed to a vote. Mr. Townsend, of Ohio, proposed a reduction of the tax on tobacco and whiskey. Mr. Cannon, of Illinois, then made a spirited speech in favor of the proposition that it is of the highest importance for the Republicans to come together on some policy, and favored the resolution proposed by Mr. Shallenberger. He declared that there was no demand by the people for the removal of the tax on whiskey and tobacco, while it was continued on articles of greater necessity. He thought that if the Republican party should approve the proposed reduction, it would be the death-blow to the Republican prospects in the Western States. Mr. Davis, of Illinois, moved to lay aside the tariff resolution and agree to proceed with the consideration of other important measures. He deplored the lack of leadership in the Republican party, and thought that this was not a good time to discuss the resolution.

Mr. Reed then called attention to his report on rules. He said that he had expected to bring it up next Thursday, but had yielded to the appeals of the friends of the Tariff Commission bill and decided not to do so. He made a strong speech against removing the tax from tobacco and whiskey. He said that non-committee of the House could afford to run counter to the average judgment of the majority which it represented. This thing ought to be settled now. Again and again he insisted that the Committee on Ways and Means had better heed the wishes and average judgment of the Republican party.

Mr. Kasson made a speech in which he declared that Western sentiment is in favor of retaining the tax on whiskey and tobacco, and that to repeal it would be a blow from which the Republican party would not recover. The thorough agitation of the question now was disturbing business and causing general depression in the West. Mr. Bayne offered a resolution that it is not wise to reduce the internal taxes except on matches, bank circulation and deposits and proprietary medicines. He thought that Congress could not afford to adjourn without taking of these taxes. He favored a tariff revision and thought that some articles should be placed on the free list and the duty on others be reduced. Mr. Lord, of Michigan, declared that there was no demand in that State for the repeal of the tax on tobacco and whiskey. Mr. Bayne then withdrew his resolution and a vote was about to be taken on the Shallenberger resolution, when Judge Kelley took the floor. He said that he hoped no formal vote would be taken. He acquiesced heartily in what appeared to be the prevailing sense of the caucus, and he was willing to abide by it. In deference to his desires that no vote should be taken which would be considered in the nature of instructions to the Committee on Ways and Means, the caucus was satisfied with the unanimous declaration through its chairman that the resolution would be considered as the sense of the caucus without a formal vote. Mr. Kelley's speech elicited warm applause and he received hearty congratulations when he sat down.

Mr. Shallenberger then withdrew his resolution, and Mr. Reed asked if anybody objected to the proposed amendments to the rules. Mr. Marsh, of Illinois, asked him to explain the reasons in their favor and the disadvantages which they were expected to overcome. This Mr. Reed did in a capital speech. Mr. Hiseock then asked him when he proposed to bring up the amendments to the rules. Mr. Reed said that he would not do so until the Ways and Means Committee had made an effort to reach the consideration of the Tariff Commission bill. In substance it was then agreed by the caucus, without a formal resolution, that the majority should proceed under the present rules and attempt to secure the consideration of the Tariff Commission bill; that if after two or three days it should be found impracticable to reach the bill under the present rules, then the Republicans should at once take up the proposed amendments and as a party press their consideration to the last. It was determined, however, that this should not be done until a sufficient effort to reach the Tariff Commission bill had been made to attract the attention of the country to show that its consideration under the present rules cannot be had. It was further agreed that the Republican members from each State should consult with the Republican Senators from that State, and within the next ten days should name the members of the Congressional Republican Committee.

The Tobacco Convention, composed of representatives of the trade from all parts of the country, was in session during the day, evening and morning, just how little reduction of the tax on tobacco it would be satisfied with. Late in the evening Congressman Jorgensen carried news to the convention that the Republican caucus had decided in favor of a reduction of the tobacco and whiskey tax. This caused great excitement and division of sentiment among the delegates. One party, headed by G. W. Holmes, of New-York, demanded that the tobacco men should attempt to get a law passed for Congress to act, and another party, headed by Henry W. Eisenger, of Louisville, Ky., declared that it was hopeless, and that the wisest course for the trade was to accept the decision of the Republican caucus as final.

CONFUSION IN THE HOUSE.
WASHINGTON, March 15.—The ill-digested disposition of Speaker Kiefer has impelled him to allow members a latitude in debate which has been grossly abused by some members of the House and has led to frequent confusion and disorder in the proceedings. The Speaker evidently realized that to-day, when, after postponing his leave with the gavel for some time, in a vain attempt to silence Mr. Money, of Mississippi, who persisted in making a speech out of order, he said with some asperity that hereafter then members tried to impose on the Chair and the House in defiance of the rules and efforts to preserve order, the Chair would at least take pains to reprimand them.

Mr. Money took his seat, but the word "reprimand" rankled in his bosom. He went to the official reporter and had the Speaker's remarks written out and then he took counsel with ex-Speaker Randall and others of his party friends, and they encouraged him to "rise to a question of privilege." The Mississippi statesman proceeded with his remarks until the Speaker stopped him, and said that he must confine himself to an explanation and vindication of his own course, and that reflections on the Chair would not be permitted. This roused Mr. Money, who declared that he would not quietly submit to the reprimand of the Speaker, which he considered as "outrageous." Cries of "Order," "Order," and "Take down the words" were heard from the Republican side, while the Democrats applauded their champion. Half the members were on their feet and all was confusion.

The Speaker emphatically reiterated his declaration that he should not hesitate to reprimand any member who might persist in violating the rules of the House, after being called to order. Messrs. Kenna, McLean and others demanded to know if the Speaker held that he had a right to "reprimand" any member without an order of the House, and again the Speaker reiterated that he had a right to and would do so. Mr. Money was at last allowed to finish his remarks, the point of which was that as the resolution upon which he had endeavored to speak was one designed largely to benefit suffering people in his own district, it was an outrage not to allow him to make a speech in favor of it, in order that his constituents might know he was not unmindful of their interests. After much more confusion and bandying of words between the Speaker and several Democratic members, the House adjourned with every body in ill-humor.

The Speaker did not seem inclined to yield an inch of the position he assumed or appeared to assume—that he has the right formally to reprimand a member for breach of parliamentary decorum. His friends said that he did not use the word "reprimand" in the sense of executing judgment for a violation of the privileges of the House and that he will explain. On the other hand the Democrats insist that he did use and mean to use the word "reprimand" in its technical sense, and they declare that they will in every possible way resent this arbitrary and unlawful assumption of authority. The indications now are that the Speaker will not press his case so often as he has in the past, but will take occasion to disavow the intention arising to him by Democrats, for they have the power to make and unmake a Speaker, and will do so very readily. The Speaker and his friends are very much in the House, of both parties, while they regret the affair of to-day, say that if it shall result in putting a stop to the scenes of confusion and disorder which so often prevail at this session, it will be fully worth the price paid for it.

While it is generally believed by Republicans that Mr. Randall was the moving spirit behind the scene of to-day, it is not true. It is a very common mistake to think that he was in it, and it was not in his seat while it was in progress.

MR. RICE ON THE CHINESE BILL.
WASHINGTON, March 15.—The Chinese bill has been so thoroughly discussed in the Senate that nobody thought anything new or interesting would be heard in the discussion of it in the House. Those who heard the remarkable speech by Mr. Rice, of Massachusetts, in opposition to the bill this afternoon, however, have changed their minds. His line of argument was in many respects similar to that pursued by Mr. Hoar in the Senate, but gentlemen who listened to both speeches declare that that of Mr. Rice was the more cogent and convincing.

One very prominent Republican member of the House said this evening that he had made up his mind to vote for the bill before he heard Mr. Rice's arguments against it, but he now thought he would vote against it. A number of Senators paid Mr. Means had better heed the wishes and average judgment of the Republican party.

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ATTACKING H. O. THOMPSON.

HIS DEPARTMENT TO BE INVESTIGATED.

TAMMANY AVENGING ITSELF UPON ITS OPPONENTS. THE COUNTY DEMOCRACY—A COUNTER-THURST AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT—ACTION OF THE STATE SENATE.
[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]
ALBANY, March 15.—The Tammany Senators to-day substantially began that investigation of the departments of New-York City controlled by their opponents, the County Democracy, that they have threatened to begin since the Legislature met. Senator Boyd was put forward by Tammany to begin the attack. He presented to the Senate the following resolution in regard to the Department of Public Works, which may be considered the backbone of the County Democracy.

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.
RUSSIA, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.
LONDON, March 15.—The statement of *The Daily News* has been confirmed by Berlin that General Skobeleff has been arrested and confined in the fortress at Wilna, is contradicted.

The Berlin correspondent of *The St. James's Gazette* says the Russian representatives at the German Court have been instructed to tender to the respective Governments to which they are accredited demonstrative assurances that the Czar is firmly resolved to maintain amicable relations with Germany.

The Cross Gazette says the Skobeleff affair is regarded as settled, but great watchfulness is required. Prince Bismarck has long since arranged European combinations for every eventuality.

A NEW MINISTRY FORMED AT ATHENS.
ATHENS, March 15.—A new Ministry has been constituted as follows:

FEARS OF AN UPRISING IN CORK.
LONDON, March 15.—A dispatch to the Central News Association from Cork, says: "The authorities are apprehensive of something in the nature of an uprising on St. Patrick's day. An extraordinary number of either telegrams have recently passed through the Cork Post Office. The police have torn down placards bearing the words: 'Be ready on St. Patrick's day.'"

In the House of Commons yesterday a debate on the second reading of the bill to amend the law relating to business in the Land Courts by instituting a system of arbitration by valuation was adjourned by a vote, 131 to 80, on the motion of Mr. Gladstone, who said that he considered that the matter would not be brought for a few months, as the present rate of progress is somewhat slow.

AMERICAN PORK IN FRANCE.
PARIS, March 15.—The Committee of the Chamber of Deputies on the bill abrogating the prohibition against the importation of American salted pork has adopted a report in favor of the bill, with the proviso that the system for the inspection of the pork upon its importation shall be re-established. The report will be submitted to the Chamber to-morrow.

A NEW SONG BY TENNYSON.
LONDON, March 15.—Alfred Tennyson, the poet laureate, has published a patriotic song which will be sung in London to-night, and throughout the colonies on the anniversary of Her Majesty's birthday.

FOREIGN NOTES.
LONDON, Wednesday, March 15, 1882.
The *Gazette* announces that the Queen has directed the issue of latest patent forms annexing Morant Gays and Petro Gays to Jamaica.

A dispatch from Constantinople says: "Russian troops in Afghanistan are again to the fore. Ayoub Khan is in constant communication with the Muscovite authorities."

Mr. Leon Say, French Minister of Finance, has submitted to the Chambers a demand for a grant of \$8,000,000 francs to defray the cost of the expedition to Tunis for the first quarter of 1882.

The day for the hanging of Dr. Limson has been fixed for April 4. It is stated that the Treasury authorities have received information leading them strongly to suspect that Dr. Limson is guilty of serious crimes.

The American steamer *Albatross*, who was driven into one of the rocks of the land-off of a hotel here for obtaining fuel without paying therefor, has been acquitted of the charge of petty fraud, but he was ordered to be detained as a person of unsound mind.

St. John, N. B., March 15.—At an annual meeting of the shareholders of the suspended bank of Prince Edward Island, held at Charlottetown yesterday, the directors reported that \$75,000 had been paid in on account of bills receivable, \$108,000 on overdrafts and accounts, and \$80,000 on mortgages and judgments, making a total of \$263,000, which was the real estate of the bank, and had been taken to secure in whole or in part \$300,000 more.

THE STEAMER CITY OF BERLIN.
BOSTON, March 15.—The *Advertiser* will say in the morning: "A rumor is current in steamship circles that instructions have been received by cable, by the agent of the Cunard Line in this city, not to bond the steamer City of Berlin on account of any claims of salvage incidental to her rescue by the Samaria, of the Cunard Line, and that all claims will be satisfactorily adjusted in Liverpool by the agents there of the Cunard and London Lines respectively."

THE RECEIVERSHIP INVESTIGATION.
ALBANY, March 15.—The Senate Insurance Committee intended to hold session this afternoon, and continue the investigation of Henry R. Pierson, receiver, but, owing to the absence of Senator Titus, a member of the Committee, caused by illness in his family, the Committee decided to adjourn until the call of the chairman.

ROBERT MARTIN TO HANG.
TRENTON, N. J., March 15.—The Court of Pardons met to-day and reconsidered the case of Robert Martin, a murderer, convicted at Newark of killings wife and babe. The consideration resulted in a refusal to commute the sentence. Martin was rescripted by the Governor until March 30, when he will be hanged.

FAILURE OF A BANKING FIRM.
PITTSBURGH, March 15.—The banking firm of Ralston, McQuinn & Co., of Fairview, Penn., suspended to-day. The liabilities are between \$200,000 and \$300,000. The assets are not known.

FRAGMENTS OF WESTERN NEWS.
SUFFOLK IN A WELL.
FERGUS FALLS, MINN., March 15.—Lars A. Shernard and Fergus common were indicted yesterday for the murder of a woman. One descended to assist the other.

ACCIDENT ON THE TENNESSEE.
NEW-ORLEANS, March 15.—By an accident on the United States steamer Tennessee, a German, Nicholas Johnson, was killed.

SUICIDE OF A PRISONER.
BUFFALO, March 15.—H. W. Dwyer, age forty-nine, was locked up. Shortly afterward it was discovered that he had cut his throat with a razor.

CHARGED WITH FORGERY.
PHILADELPHIA, March 15.—Herbert Penny-packer, of this place, was arrested this morning and placed under \$5,000 bail for trial to-morrow on a charge of forging the National Bank of Pennsylvania. The check was for \$7,000.

TALKS WITH THE MAGNATES.

IMPORTANT INTERVIEWS WITH VANDERBILT, BILT, GREEN AND OTHERS.

MR. VANDERBILT ON THE CONDITION OF THE RAILROADS—A GOOD TRAFFIC NOW WITH EXCELLENT PROSPECTS—RESULTS OF THE SETTLEMENT OF THE RAILROAD WAR—DR. GREEN'S VIEWS CONCERNING THE TELEGRAPH LINES—RUSSELL SAGE ON RAILROAD BUILDING.
Mr. Vanderbilt, in a long talk with a *TRIBUNE* reporter yesterday, discussed very fully the relations of the railroads, the condition of their traffic, and the reasons for confidence in their future. He expressed great faith that the companies had an era of prosperity before them, as their differences had been adjusted, and spoke contemptuously of the men who had been trying to alarm the public as to the soundness of the best investment properties. The question of legislation affecting the railroads, the great reduction in the cost of transportation in recent years, and the proper price for labor were among the other subjects considered by Mr. Vanderbilt. In a conversation with Dr. Norvin Green, the president of the Western Union Telegraph Company reviewed the immense growth of the telegraph business, and presented facts and figures to show that a still greater and still more profitable business may be expected hereafter. Russell Sage expressed the belief that the check to railway building was only temporary, and that the present valuations of railway property were too low. A. L. Hopkins, who has recently returned from the West, found the farmers prosperous and hopeful, and noted a great improvement in the traffic of the transportation lines.

VIEWS OF MR. VANDERBILT.

REASONS FOR FAITH IN RAILWAYS—BENT ON PROTECTING HIS PROPERTY.

William H. Vanderbilt was called upon at his residence last evening by a *TRIBUNE* reporter, who desired to get his views as to the relations of the railroads, the settlement of the war between them, the condition of their business now, and the outlook for traffic in the future. Mr. Vanderbilt was found in a genial and comfortable mood and talked freely on these subjects. He was glancing over the letters received by his library. In reply to an inquiry about the present condition of railroad matters, he said:

"The railroad war on both passenger and freight rates is practically settled. The first step, perhaps, was the hardest to take, but after that everything appears to have worked smoothly enough. The railroad companies are acting now on the spirit of harmony and mutual concession that renders the carrying out of the present agreement perfectly easy. They have made a pooling arrangement for five years, and I suppose all the minor details necessary to the fulfillment of that agreement have been perfected. Yes, yes, there is no longer any railroad war; it has ended. It was about time that a stop was put to it. For nearly a year the railroads were engaged in a bitter conflict, and long ago it was evident that the companies themselves could not settle all the questions involved in the struggle. It became absolutely indispensable that the business men of the country should act as arbiters between the railroads, whose officers were drifting further apart. That has been done, and from the business men, who are fully alive to the magnitude of the railroad question and to the influences which will flow from the decision of them, we may expect the fullest discussion and the most correct judgment. As I said just now, it was quite time that the railroad war was brought to a close. The war has taught us all a good lesson; at any rate, I have learned lessons from it that I shall never forget. I have no doubt the officers of all the railroads are wiser than they were a year ago. The war has cost a great deal of money, and the only practical advantage that has been gained is the knowledge how cheaply the work of transportation can be done. That is a matter that has been clearly proved by the contest, and I think most railroad men have been surprised at the result. But I tell you it was due to stockholders and to everybody that the war should be stopped; we had recognized the insanity of prolonging it."

"Will the peace be lasting?" the reporter asked.
"Oh, undoubtedly it will be maintained for several years. The agreement is made for five years, and it is hardly probable that anything will happen to break it."

THE DECISION CONCERNING DIFFERENTIAL RATES.
"The question of differential rates has not been decided, and the Advisory Commission has no power," the reporter suggested.
"That is very true," Mr. Vanderbilt replied; "but I anticipate a decision that will be so eminently just that the railroads will accept it without a word of dissent. You see, this matter of differential rates has become a national question of vast importance. It has passed out of the hands of railroad men, partly because of its very importance, but mainly because railroad men showed themselves incompetent to handle it. Their views were narrow and their opinions were warped by personal feelings and official interests. Because they were unable to determine the question, I suggested some months ago that it should be left to arbitration, and that the business men of the country should give it a thorough examination and discussion. From that suggestion, I believe, has sprung the Advisory Commission which is now considering the subject. Certainly the men who constitute that Commission are men of ability, of fairness and of practical wisdom. No better men probably could have been selected, and the result of their deliberations will be accepted by the world as the justest conclusion that could be reached. I presume the officers of the railroad companies will accept it as the basis of a settlement. Certainly I shall be willing to do so if it will give my roads a chance to live. We have been fighting New-York's battle for a long time and it has cost us millions of money. We cannot fight the battle unaided and alone. The business men of New-York have a deep interest in the contest and should do their utmost to protect the commercial supremacy of the city. The Central Railroad is preeminently a New-York institution and deserves the support of its business men. But for all that, we have to consider the interests of other places on our line. As a matter of business, a man at Rochester is of just as much consequence to the road as a man at Syracuse, and one at Albany as another at Buffalo. We want every place on the line of our roads to prosper, for in its success lies the prosperity of the roads themselves."

ENCOURAGING PROSPECTS FOR THE ROADS.
"What is the present condition of railroad business?"
"I consider the outlook to be extremely favorable. We are doing a good business; in fact, the traffic is rather larger in volume than it has been before, but the low rates of freights have prevented our reaping the full advantage of the increased business. I understand that the prospects of large crops this season are exceedingly brilliant, and altogether it is my opinion that the railroads will earn more money this year than last. The Lake Shore road earned its 8 per cent dividends last year in spite of all the statements to the contrary, and I have no doubt that the business will be sufficient for the rest of the present year to enable it to continue 8 per cent dividends. The speculation in grain, as you are aware, hurt the railroads considerably. The prices at Chicago and the West were forced to

TALKS WITH THE MAGNATES.

IMPORTANT INTERVIEWS WITH VANDERBILT, BILT, GREEN AND OTHERS.

MR. VANDERBILT ON THE CONDITION OF THE RAILROADS—A GOOD TRAFFIC NOW WITH EXCELLENT PROSPECTS—RESULTS OF THE SETTLEMENT OF THE RAILROAD WAR—DR. GREEN'S VIEWS CONCERNING THE TELEGRAPH LINES—RUSSELL SAGE ON RAILROAD BUILDING.
Mr. Vanderbilt, in a long talk with a *TRIBUNE* reporter yesterday, discussed very fully the relations of the railroads, the condition of their traffic, and the reasons for confidence in their future. He expressed great faith that the companies had an era of prosperity before them, as their differences had been adjusted, and spoke contemptuously of the men who had been trying to alarm the public as to the soundness of the best investment properties. The question of legislation affecting the railroads, the great reduction in the cost of transportation in recent years, and the proper price for labor were among the other subjects considered by Mr. Vanderbilt. In a conversation with Dr. Norvin Green, the president of the Western Union Telegraph Company reviewed the immense growth of the telegraph business, and presented facts and figures to show that a still greater and still more profitable business may be expected hereafter. Russell Sage expressed the belief that the check to railway building was only temporary, and that the present valuations of railway property were too low. A. L. Hopkins, who has recently returned from the West, found the farmers prosperous and hopeful, and noted a great improvement in the traffic of the transportation lines.

VIEWS OF MR. VANDERBILT.

REASONS FOR FAITH IN RAILWAYS—BENT ON PROTECTING HIS PROPERTY.

William H. Vanderbilt was called upon at his residence last evening by a *TRIBUNE* reporter, who desired to get his views as to the relations of the railroads, the settlement of the war between them, the condition of their business now, and the outlook for traffic in the future. Mr. Vanderbilt was found in a genial and comfortable mood and talked freely on these subjects. He was glancing over the letters received by his library. In reply to an inquiry about the present condition of railroad matters, he said:

"The railroad war on both passenger and freight rates is practically settled. The first step, perhaps, was the hardest to take, but after that everything appears to have worked smoothly enough. The railroad companies are acting now on the spirit of harmony and mutual concession that renders the carrying out of the present agreement perfectly easy. They have made a pooling arrangement for five years, and I suppose all the minor details necessary to the fulfillment of that agreement have been perfected. Yes, yes, there is no longer any railroad war; it has ended. It was about time that a stop was put to it. For nearly a year the railroads were engaged in a bitter conflict, and long ago it was evident that the companies themselves could not settle all the questions involved in the struggle. It became absolutely indispensable that the business men of the country should act as arbiters between the railroads, whose officers were drifting further apart. That has been done, and from the business men, who are fully alive to the magnitude of the railroad question and to the influences which will flow from the decision of them, we may expect the fullest discussion and the most correct judgment. As I said just now, it was quite time that the railroad war was brought to a close. The war has taught us all a good lesson; at any rate, I have learned lessons from it that I shall never forget. I have no doubt the officers of all the railroads are wiser than they were a year ago. The war has cost a great deal of money, and the only practical advantage that has been gained is the knowledge how cheaply the work of transportation can be done. That is a matter that has been clearly proved by the contest, and I think most railroad men have been surprised at the result. But I tell you it was due to stockholders and to everybody that the war should be stopped; we had recognized the insanity of prolonging it."

"Will the peace be lasting?" the reporter asked.
"Oh, undoubtedly it will be maintained for several years. The agreement is made for five years, and it is hardly probable that anything will happen to break it."

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